

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 671 without my signature as the requirements would be premature to the recommendations being considered by the California Performance Review (CPR).

This bill would require the Governor to annually submit a newly defined five-year workforce infrastructure plan to the Legislature in conjunction with his proposed budget. Currently, a five-year report is submitted regarding infrastructure on real and personal property, generally known as “hardscape.”

The bill defines and broadens the report to include “workforce infrastructure” for public instruction and libraries. Because there is a lack of clarity in the definition, the bill expands the report to include any item needed to support the school’s workforce, such as information or computer systems, equipment, supplies and requires the estimated costs. It would also require that a funding source be identified to pay for these items, including books and supplies for libraries.

This bill may require the State to engage in a planning process for identifying infrastructure needs for schools and libraries that are the responsibility of local government. Further, it is not clear how this bill would improve the State’s infrastructure planning process. Finally, this bill is not consistent with the CPR.

When I signed the Executive Order in February of 2004 establishing the CPR, its mission was to make fundamental changes in state government, establish new procedures to create greater efficiencies, prioritize government functions, create true accountability over the fiscal management of state resources. Further exposure of government must be fully reviewed and consolidated against existing state entities and programs.

The recommendations of this bill warrant careful review and consideration through the CPR process before enacting any legislation that makes substantial changes to the state’s infrastructure plan.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger